

# A Major Yippie Theorist Seized on Drug Charges

A young man arrested recently in Madison, Wis., as a marijuana dealer has turned out to be a major theoretician and behind-the-scenes leader of the underground youth movement.

The suspect is Dana Beal, a former radical leader in the East Village.

Efforts have been started to raise defense funds for the 24-year-old Beal, who has used an elaborate system of aliases since he jumped bail on drug charges in Manhattan in 1967.

Beal was described in interviews as a founder of several radical youth groups, including the Yippies, and as organizer of many "pro-pot" demonstrations, such as the second annual smoke-in and anti-C.I.A. heroin march held in Washington July 4.

His friends and associates identified Beal, who does not use his first name, Irving, as one of the first movement writers to argue for a merger of political radicalism and the psychedelic life style.

## Pseudonyms Used

They said he wrote extensively, under such pseudonyms as George Metessky and Leon Yipsky, for the underground press on the necessity to link psychedelic drugs, revolution and peace.

They asserted that it was because of his writings and activities as a political organizer that Beal was being prosecuted as a drug dealer.

Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, Yippie leaders who garnered national attention during the 1968 Democratic convention demonstrations, agreed in separate telephone interviews that Beal was an important figure in the movement.

"He is a unique blend of a street person and a theoretician," said Mr. Hoffman. "His writings are far more important and impressive than people like me and Jerry Rubin."

Mr. Rubin said Beal's writings "were a strong force in helping us understand who we are."

He asserted that Beal was such an important symbol that local and Federal law enforcement agencies specifically sought to catch him dealing in drugs.

## Important Works

Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Rubin said Beal's most important works were "Right on Culture Freaks" and "Weather Yippie," which were reprinted in more than 100 underground newspapers in this country and abroad.

The articles called for more militancy on the part of young radicals but criticized what Beal saw as the elitism and lack of humanity in the more violent radical groups.

Associates said Beal preferred to organize "alternative culture actions" to highlight his beliefs rather than get involved in bombings or violent confrontations.

## Effect of LSD Studied

A. J. Weberman, an unofficial biographer of Bob Dylan, the singer, said that while attending New York University night school, Beal became convinced of the importance of



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Dana Beal

psychedelic drugs to youth politics.

"His first paper was on the effect of LSD on the politics of hippies, and he decided acid radicalized them," Mr. Weberman, a former roommate of Beal, explained in a telephone interview.

"He would have nothing to do with 'death drugs,' which is what he called speed and heroin," Mr. Weberman said.

He said that the police disliked Beal because he "organized the freak quarter" and therefore set out to arrest him and curb his activities on the Lower East Side.

When Beal was arrested by Federal narcotics agents in 1967, his friends marched through lower Manhattan and raised \$3,000 bail. He was arrested a second time shortly afterward and then disappeared from the city.

Beal, changing aliases about once every six months, turned up in various places from Mexico to Canada. He was connected with the White Panther party and several other radical groups in the Middle West.

He was arrested in several cities on drug charges but managed to jump bail each time before coming to trial. Friends said he was worried that the police might use a commitment to a Michigan mental hospital during his youth to label him insane and thus commit him without trial.

## Arrested in Madison

His most recent arrest occurred as he was hitchhiking out of Madison July 14. The first car to stop was that of plainclothes detectives who were seeking Beal on a 1970 charge of selling hashish.

The police said they found 69 bags of marijuana in Beal's suitcase. An agent of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs said his agency, the Milwaukee police, the New York City police and other local and Federal law enforcement groups had outstanding warrants against Beal.

Within hours of his arrest, underground leaders were organizing defense plans for Beal, and an address for funds was set up at the Canal Street Station post office here.

In an interview with reporters Thursday in his cell, Mr. Beal was chagrined over his latest incarceration.

"I should have taken the bus, but it was such a beautiful day I let my guard down," he said.